

Hello, my name is Najely Clavijo, and this is the second time that I'm supporting a bill that will not only help me but many others as well. I am a freshman at NVCC at Danbury. I am an undocumented and unafraid human being. I am here to support SB273, which will provide with DEBT-FREE COLLEGE. Said bill would be enable in-state high school enrolled in regional community-technical colleges to graduate without student loans. I'm also here to support HB7161, an act to establish finish line grants, which would allow undergraduate students at public institutions of higher education to finish earning their degree without student loans. I am in support of debt free college education, but I believe changes must be made to the bill to help more students.

Unfairly undocumented students are excluded from both SB273 and HB7161 because WE don't have a SSN to complete FAFSA, it will be a supporting and efficient opportunity to open the bill to all students regardless their status.

I am from Ecuador but at the age of two years my family and I migrated to Spain, there I had the opportunity to have a better education, when I turned 12 we went back to Ecuador and there I learned how difficult it will be to seek a better education because of the low teaching techniques and poverty. I have been in the US since 2014, more specifically five years, five years of not giving up with my education and not letting my status be an obstacle. I am paying college out of my own pocket and hard work, it might sound like a cliché but is not easy to find a job where I can chose my own days off and have the time to go to college and have a few hours to finish my homework. That is some of my personal story, it might not be really important but outside this walls are many others undocumented students with worse stories to share but they are not giving up because WE know how important is to have and education in today's world. I would like you to remember this words and to support both SB273 and HB7161, we are not only doing this for ourselves, we are doing it for our family and friends. For me, I'm doing it for my eight years old brother. I am his way to change and make his future better.

Sincerely,

Najely Clavijo

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